Introduction of NREG throughout the country

1770. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to introduce Employment Guarantee scheme throughout the country;

(b)ifso, the details in this regard;

whether it is a fact that the decision of the Government is a move towards mid-term elections in the country; and

if not, what are the consideration that have necessitated Government's decision to take this decision at this point of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to extend NREGA to all the remaining rural districts in the country with effect from 1.4.2008. The Programme is already being implemented in 330 districts in the country. Remaining 266 districts have been covered in the third phase of implementation. A notification to this effect was issued on 28.9.2007.

(c) and (d) The NREG Act requires it to be made applicable to the whole of the territory to which it extends within a period of five years. The Scheme has been extended in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Eligibility criteria under Indira Awaas Yojana

† 1771. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether there are any eligibility criteria for allotment of dwelling units under Indira Awaas Yojana;

if so, the details thereof and the time limit within which construction work is required to be carried out after allotment of dwelling units; and

whether cases of misuse of this facility have been noticed in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the names of places and the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Households below the Poverty Line living in rural areas are eligible for a dwelling unit under Indira Awaas Yojana. As per LAY guidelines, construction of a house should not take more than two years.

(c) As the implementation of the Scheme lies with the State Governments, as and when any complaint for committing any irregularity in the implementation of lAY Scheme, is received, the same is forwarded to the concerned State Government for looking into the matter A Statement showing the complaints relating to Uttar Pradesh received in the last three years and action taken thereon, is annexed

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.